



Fridley Public Schools

***Adopted Budget
Fiscal Year 2026-2027***

June 16, 2026



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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

Organizational Overview

Fridley School Board

Board Member	Position
Jake Karnopp	Chair
Sara Jones	Vice Chair
Nikki Auna	Treasurer
Avonna Starck	Clerk
Sara Schreiner	Director
Pajjar Yang	Director

Fridley Administrative Team

Position	Name
Superintendent	Dr. Brenda Lewis
Assistant Superintendent	Rochelle Cox
Senior Officer of Academics and Innovation	Dr. Amy Cochran
Senior Officer of Student & Family Support	Harold Scott
Senior Officer of Finance	Lori Andler
Equity & Family Empowerment Coordinator	Aloda Sims
Director of Student Services	Dr. Danielle Thompson
Director of Nutritional Services	Renee Arbogast
Director of Community Education	Stephen Keeler
High School Principal	Kelly McConville
High School Assistant Principal	Kari Varichak, Jason Blanshan
High School Activities Director	Justin Reese
Middle School Principal	Jordan Halverson
Middle School Assistant Principal	Kitty Hallin-Payne, Melissa Kidd
VISTA Elementary & Secondary Principal	Matthew Engelhardt
VISTA Elementary & Secondary Asst. Principal	Mark Jacobs
Hayes Elementary Principal	Angaelika Iverson
Hayes Elementary Assistant Principal	Greg Beeck
Stevenson Elementary Principal	Veronica Mathison
Stevenson Elementary Assistant Principal	Abby Jensen

Budget Executive Section

Classroom Staffing:

Based on estimated enrollment and Fridley Maximum Class Size:

Grade	Class Size
Pre-Kindergarten	20
Kindergarten	20
Grades 1-2	24
Grade 3-4	25
Grades 5	25
Grades 6-8	34
Grades 9-12	34

Financial Overview

The FY2027 adopted budget is based on the best information available as of June 2026. The FY2025 audit has not yet been completed, and FY2026 financial activity remains subject to year-end closing entries and audit adjustments. Budget projections and fund balance estimates will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Overview of Funds

To understand this budget document, it is helpful to know that there are significant legal restrictions on how school districts must spend and account for the public funds that are received. It is important to be aware of the fund structure discussed below because, **with very few exceptions, money cannot be transferred from one fund to another.** There are also revenue streams within the funds that are restrictive; Integration Aid, for example, can only be spent for items as noted in the District Integration plan, and may not be used for general classroom expenses. The district's 2027 fiscal year coincides with the school year, spanning from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

General Fund:

The General Fund contains all revenue and expenses for the general, day-to-day operations of the district. This includes salaries and benefits for teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, custodians, and clerical; instructional supplies, technology, transportation, textbooks, and money spent to operate and repair District buildings. The district breaks out portions of this activity for internal tracking and budgeting purposes. Internal funds include General Fund (01), Transportation (03), Student Activities (51), and Capital Outlay (05).

The Transportation Fund contains all revenue and expenses for regular "to and from" school day transportation; it does not include special education costs or extracurricular trips.

The Student Activity Fund is used to account for those activity groups that are for the students and run by the students. These groups have adult advisors, but the nature of activities is dictated by the students. Revenues usually consist of fundraisers and donations, while expenses are most often food, clothing, and travel.

The Capital Outlay Fund is used to track the restricted revenue sources of Operating Capital and Long-Term Facilities Maintenance, which are a combination of state aid and local property taxes. Operating Capital is allocated to each building based on enrollment and is used for building-level long term program goals (textbooks, furniture, software, and hardware purchases). The remaining amounts are allocated between curriculum, technology, and grounds. Long-Term Facilities Maintenance revenue is dedicated to finance long term building repair projects, including but not limited to roofing, parking lots, HVAC systems and fire suppression systems.

Food Service Fund:

The Food Service Fund (02) contains all revenue and expenses for the school breakfast, lunch, and summer feeding programs. The funding for these programs includes local fees, state aid and federal aid. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires all funding to follow federal guidelines and therefore is extremely restrictive on allowable expenses. For example, the fund could be used to purchase an oven for the kitchen but may not be used to purchase cafeteria tables.

Community Service Fund:

The Community Service Fund (04) is used to track revenue and expenses for community education programs such as Early Childhood Family Education, School Readiness (preschool), Adult Basic Education, Tiger Club (childcare programs), and youth and adult enrichment and recreation. The fund is also used to track nonpublic school state aid flow through for textbooks, health, and counseling. Revenues primarily come from fees charged for programs, supplemented by local property taxes and state aid.

Building Construction Fund:

The Building Construction Fund (06) is used to track expenses for major building projects and for Long-Term Facility Maintenance projects exceeding \$2,000,000. Proceeds from debt issuances are placed in this fund and then spent down.

Debt Service Fund:

The district has two debt service funds: Debt Service Fund (07) and OPEB Debt Service Fund (47). The 'regular' debt service fund is used to pay the debt service on bonds sold to finance construction or maintenance projects. The OPEB debt service fund is used to pay the debt service on bonds that were sold to finance the district's severance and other post-employment benefits such as health insurance for retirees.

OPEB Revocable Trust Fund:

The OPEB Revocable Trust Fund (25) contains the proceeds from the bond that was issued to finance retiree benefits related to health insurance. Each year the district transfers a portion of the investments to the General Fund to pay for retiree benefits.

Other Information

State Basic General Education Aid

The largest single funding source for the district is basic General Education Aid. The State Legislature sets the basic formula allowance for each year; total basic general education revenue is then calculated by multiplying the formula allowance by the number of pupil units. Pupil units are calculated using a weighting system applied to the average daily membership. For example, a 1st grader that is enrolled all year is assigned a weight of 1.0, and so generates \$7,683 in basic formula revenue. A 9th grader that is enrolled all year is assigned a weight of 1.2 and would generate \$9,219.60 in basic formula revenue.

Historical General Education Aid Formula Allowance		
Year	Amount	Percent Increase
2017	\$6,067	2.0%
2018	6,188	2.0%
2019	6,312	2.0%
2020	6,438	2.0%
2021	6,567	2.0%
2022	6,728	2.5%
2023	6,863	2.0%
2024	7,138	4.0%
2025	7,281	2.0%
2026	7,481	2.74%
2027	\$7,683	2.70%

Historical Enrollment and Estimated Enrollment for 2026-2027 (Average Daily Membership):

Grade	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27 Budget
K	200	182	189	196	183	192	185
1	198	203	182	180	189	201	184
2	186	186	186	173	188	194	204
3	181	185	190	173	170	196	186
4	194	169	185	181	184	176	196
5	189	190	151	163	175	180	176
6	228	183	192	164	187	191	196
7	234	221	184	181	177	182	203
8	208	233	231	175	189	183	200
9	237	236	230	230	217	216	192
10	262	247	252	234	240	221	218
11	240	225	221	238	207	186	228
12	198	215	193	194	206	158	217
TOTAL ADM	2,755	2,676	2,586	2,482	2,512	2,476	2,585

Grades	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
K-5	1,148	1,115	1,084	1,066	1,089	1,139	1,131
6-8	670	638	607	520	553	556	599
9-12	937	923	895	896	870	781	855
Total	2,755	2,676	2,586	2,482	2,512	2,476	2,585

FINANCIAL SECTION

Fund Balance

The level of spending is set with several considerations in mind, but one of the chief items is to maintain an adequate level of reserves for unanticipated events. The district's goal is to achieve an unassigned fund balance in operating funds between 7 and 10 percent of the annual operating budget. The balance can be considered the district's savings account, and maintaining a prudent fund balance is important for the stability of the district.

The fund balance amounts presented in this budget are based on the best information available as of June 2026. The FY2025 audit has not yet been completed, and FY2026 financial activity remains subject to year-end closing entries and adjustments. As a result, beginning fund balances, projected ending fund balances, and related financial projections included in this budget are preliminary estimates and may be revised following completion of the FY2025 audit and finalization of FY2026 year-end financial results.

Unanticipated events that could require the district to use unassigned fund balance include:

- Property tax delinquencies and abatements
- Enrollment fluctuations
- Unanticipated price increases for essential purchases (e.g., utilities and health insurance)
- State revenue reductions or aid proration
- Federal funding reductions
- Public health emergencies or other unforeseen events

The following fund balance summary reflects management's best estimates as of June 2026 and is intended for budget planning purposes. Actual beginning and ending fund balances may differ following completion of the FY2025 audit and finalization of FY2026 year-end financial results.

Fund Balance Summary				
Fund	FY26 Projected Fund Balance	FY27 Revenues	FY27 Expenditures	FY27 Projected Fund Balance
General Fund	(\$1,323,765)	\$56,412,804	\$56,708,453	(\$1,619,414)
Food Service Fund	\$160,982	\$2,550,500	\$2,993,672	\$160,982
Community Ed Fund	(\$1,063,343)	\$2,585,791	\$2,611,693	(\$1,089,245)
Building Fund	\$10,593	\$1,017,827	\$1,017,827	\$10,593
Debt Service Fund	\$2,082,399	\$5,954,139	\$5,040,085	\$2,996,453
Internal Service Fund	\$5,166,169	\$7,423,803	\$7,811,934	\$4,778,038
OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$3,004,703	\$340,000	\$561,250	\$2,783,453
Total All Funds	\$8,037,738	\$76,284,864	\$76,301,742	\$8,020,860

Note: Fund balance amounts shown above are preliminary estimates based on available financial information as of June 2026. Amounts are subject to change upon completion of the FY2025 audit and finalization of FY2026 year-end financial results.

Summary

	Description	2024-2025 Revised	2025-2026 Adopted	Increase / (Decrease)
Revenues:				
	Levy	\$8,735,289	\$9,317,788	\$582,499
	Education Aids	29,808,576	30,810,076	1,001,500
	Categorical State Aids	11,560,581	12,680,513	1,119,932
	Local Revenues	1,245,163	1,263,451	18,288
	Federal Programs	2,818,514	2,206,625	(611,889)
	Total Revenues	\$54,168,123	\$56,278,453	\$2,110,330
Expenditures:				
	Salaries and Wages	\$30,853,812	\$31,658,447	\$804,635
	Employee Benefits	10,818,237	11,562,093	743,856
	Purchased Services	10,043,390	9,681,291	(362,099)
	Supplies and Materials	1,844,596	1,837,246	(7,350)
	Capital Expenditures	1,716,572	805,888	(910,684)
	Other Expenditures	289,260	288,260	(1,000)
	Other Financing Uses	1,025,228	875,228	(150,000)
	Total Expenditures	\$56,591,095	\$56,708,453	\$117,358
	Change in Fund Balance	(\$2,422,972)	(\$430,000)	\$1,992,972

Revenues:

Revenue projections are based on projected enrollment, current state funding assumptions, and information available as of June 2026. Revenue estimates may be revised following completion of the FY2025 audit and finalization of FY2026 year-end financial results.

Expenditures:

Expenditure projections reflect anticipated staffing requirements, contractual obligations, employee benefit costs, transportation costs, utilities, and other operational needs. The budget also includes costs associated with expanded special education programming, including the addition of a middle school Setting IV program and an Autism Center program. Administration continues to evaluate expenditures and identify opportunities for cost containment while maintaining educational programming and services for students. Because the FY2025 audit has not been completed and FY2026 financial activity remains subject to year-end adjustments, expenditure projections may be revised as additional information becomes available.

INFORMATIONAL SECTION

Levy Summary

A portion of the district’s funding comes from local property taxes, for the General Fund this revenue makes up approximately 16% of funding. The district receives general education revenue from both state aid payments and local property taxes; the mix of aid and levy is designed to equalize local tax burdens between wealthier and less wealthy districts. In the debt service fund, amounts are levied to repay bonds that were used to finance building projects. There are also specific levies to support community education programming. For reference, the levy information shown below reflects previously approved levy amounts. Levy proceeds are collected through the property tax system and recognized as revenue in the applicable fiscal year. The following pages show the breakdown of levy categories by fund. The following page shows the breakdown of the levy categories by fund.

Levy Summary				
Description	2022 Pay 23 Levy	2023 Pay 24 Levy	2024 Pay 25 Levy	Change
General	\$7,915,765	\$8,353,434	\$8,912,577	\$559,143
Community Service	349,660	354,005	337,958	(16,047)
General Debt Service	3,695,681	4,395,827	5,490,511	1,094,684
OPEB Debt Service	539,304	-	-	-
Total Levy	\$12,500,410	\$13,103,266	\$14,741,046	\$1,637,780
Percent Increase				12.50%

Levy Summary					
Fund Level Category	2022 Pay 23 Levy	2023 Pay 24 Levy	2024 Pay 25 Levy	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund					
Voter Approved Operating Referendum	\$1,678,485	\$1,695,969	\$2,887,630	\$1,191,661	
Local Optional Revenue	1,883,553	1,926,031	1,924,783	(1,248)	
Equity	410,358	396,450	341,227	(55,223)	
Voter Approved Capital Project Levy	1,080,189	1,272,850	1,346,895	74,045	

Levy Summary

Fund Level Category	2022 Pay 23 Levy	2023 Pay 24 Levy	2024 Pay 25 Levy	\$ Change	% Change
Operating Capital	231,363	275,215	285,900	10,685	
Alternative Teacher Compensation	267,958	250,065	242,533	(7,532)	
Achievement & Integration	231,175	225,198	226,379	1,181	
Long Term Facilities Maintenance	1,113,525	1,284,078	617,869	(666,209)	
Instructional Lease	613,804	609,592	601,709	(7,883)	
Other	387,541	403,646	466,076	62,430	
Prior Year Adjustments	17,813	14,339	(28,425)	(42,764)	
Total General Fund	\$7,915,765	\$8,353,434	\$8,912,577	\$559,143	6.69%
Community Service					
Basic Community Education	\$132,835	\$98,898	\$90,118	(\$8,780)	
Early Childhood Family Education	54,739	52,817	54,625	1,808	
School Age Care	160,000	160,000	175,000	15,000	
Other	1,477	3,363	3,301	(62)	
Prior Year Adjustments	610	38,927	14,914	(24,013)	
Total Community Service	\$349,661	\$354,005	\$337,958	(\$16,047)	(4.53%)
Debt Service					
Debt Service-Voter Approved	\$2,278,080	\$2,863,981	3,042,593	\$178,612	
Other	260,295	263,865	435,120	171,255	
Long-Term Facilities Maintenance	1,457,144	1,496,815	2,143,918	647,103	
OPEB Bond	569,993	-	-	-	
Reduction for Debt Excess	(342,499)	(245,304)	(195,487)	49,817	
Prior Year Adjustments	11,973	16,471	64,368	47,897	
Total Debt Service	\$4,234,986	\$4,395,827	\$5,490,511	\$1,094,684	24.90%
Total Levy, All Funds	\$12,500,410	\$13,103,266	\$14,741,046	\$1,637,780	12.50%
Subtotal by Truth in Taxation Categories:					
Voter Approved	\$5,040,591	\$5,758,786	\$7,217,278	\$1,458,492	
Other	7,459,820	7,344,480	7,523,768	179,288	
Total	\$12,500,410	\$13,103,266	\$14,741,046	\$1,637,780	12.50%

Levy information reflects the most recently approved levy information available at the time of budget adoption. Future levy amounts will be determined through the annual Truth in Taxation and levy certification process.

Budget Revisions

The administration anticipates bringing budget revisions and updated fund balance projections to the School Board following completion of the FY2025 audit and finalization of FY2026 year-end financial results.